

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

## **An Act To Ensure That High-quality Services Are Provided to Behavioral Health Clients**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §1224** is enacted to read:

### **§ 1224. Standards for private behavioral health care practitioners**

A private behavioral health care practitioner who contracts with or is reimbursed by the department for providing services to a client must be affiliated with a nationally accredited organization that provides oversight of the practitioner and sets standards for best practices and quality assurance, including standards governing crisis services and provision of coverage when a practitioner is unavailable or, if the private behavioral health care practitioner is not so affiliated, the practitioner must meet these same standards.

### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires a private behavioral health care practitioner who contracts with or is reimbursed by the Department of Health and Human Services for providing services to a client to be affiliated with a nationally accredited organization that provides oversight of the practitioner and sets standards for best practices and quality assurance, including standards governing crisis services and provision of coverage when a practitioner is unavailable or, if the private behavioral health care practitioner is not so affiliated, to meet these same standards.